

Iron County Register.

By E. L. AKE.

IRONTON, MISSOURI.

THE MOUNTAIN.

Behind the mountain the sun droops down.
Yet a band of his golden misty light,
Like the mountain's grand, aerial crown,
He casts athwart of the purple height.
Where the dark pine forests are rich and deep,
And the rocks are blue on the scarry steep.

O mountain, sweet is the slow farewell
Of the summer day with its trailing beam!
From the huge old trees where the fairies dwell
To the lone vantage recedes the gleam;
While the dark blue shadow, serene and cold,
Ascends thy breast with its mantling fold.

By her green, dim curtains of dusk and dew,
Away from the warm and festive light,
Earth bears thee back in the solemn blue
To the realm of her old primeval night;
She bears thee, O mountain, her pensive child,
Through lonesome aeons her undefined!

And the tones of thy rivers are praying
God,
They murmur their chants of the deep old time;
And sweet are the forms of thy mossy sod
As when they sprang to the heat sub-
lime,
And thy brow is trod by the rising stars
As when it gleamed from the glacial bars.

The golden light from thy outmost pine
Is gathered home to immensity,
And thy calm, unwearied, eternal lines
Are darkly drawn on the rose-faded sky.
While forever past, and forever more,
With one deep longing thou dost adore!

—Irene Putnam, in Youth's Companion.

The Cloverburg Comedy.

NEAR Cloverburg, Ky., lived two very respectable old gentlemen. They owned contiguous bluegrass farms, each of generous acreage. Both men were descended from good old Kentucky stock, and both were extremely proud of their unstained and honorable lineage.

Esquire Israel Longacre, who got his title from having been at one time a country magistrate, was about 60 years of age, of rotund figure and strong constitution.

He carried his years well, and although possessed of a naturally kind heart, was at times subject to violent attacks of cholera, during which periods of temporary insanity he would neither reason himself nor listen to the reasoning of others.

He married, late in life, a very estimable lady, and had one daughter—a beautiful and accomplished girl—who, at the time of which I write, was just budding into womanhood. The squire's wife had died four years previous, and since that time his household affairs had been managed by his only unmarried sister, a lady of uncertain age, spare figure and vinegary temper.

The squire—about all people and all things were usually subservient to his will—had a mortal dread of his spinster sister, and a wholesome respect for her sharp tongue.

She had absolute control of household matters, and as the squire never interfered with her arrangements, the pair got along very nicely together.

Both loved the beautiful girl who had grown up to womanhood under their eyes, and the heart of the old squire could always be approached through Nellie, who was the image of her dead mother.

The daughter and her aunt—who rejoiced in the name of Dorothea Longacre—never quarreled, and taken together the Longacre household machine moved smoothly.

The Longacres' nearest neighbor was Col. Anson Shortroad, who at one period of his life rode at the head of a valiant regiment of militia.

The colonel was a widower of long standing, his excellent spouse having departed this life several years ago, leaving to him, as a legacy, a boy, now grown into manhood, who was named Anson, junior, after his father, and who was a model of industry and sobriety.

The colonel's household goddess was a buxom widow, Mrs. Abigail Sloan, who was related to the head of the household by marriage, being the only sister of his late consort.

The colonel was 55 or thereabouts, was tall, angular and bony, and disposed to be unrelenting and unyielding in disposition.

The colonel and the squire had lived neighbors for 30 years, and up to about six months previous to the occurrence I am about to describe, were warm friends.

They fell out over a trifling matter. The colonel owned a fine flock of merino sheep, of which he was very proud. The squire was the possessor of a large mastiff dog, of whose intelligence and good qualities he was always boasting.

One night an animal, supposed to be a sheep-killing dog, broke into the colonel's fold, killed a valuable buck and mangled several ewes.

When the doughty military chieftain discovered his loss he was furious, and stormed in true soldierly style.

"What dog could have done it?" inquired the son, who had been attracted to the spot by his father's storm of words.

"Why, that cur of Squire Longacre's," bawled his father. "He shall pay me heavy damages, or I'll have the law on him."

"I don't think—" began the son.

"Well, don't think, then!" bellowed his father. "I'll do the thinking."

"Shut up!" roared the colonel, frothing at the mouth.

And young Anson was silent.

The colonel hurried back to the house for his cane, and in a few minutes was striding across the field in the direction of Squire Longacre's mansion.

"He's got one of his mad spells on," was the answer.

"That's plain to be seen," snifled the widow. "But what, in goodness, has brought it on?"

"A dog broke into the fold last night, killed a fine buck, and mangled several ewes."

"For pity's sake! Well, I never! That's enough to make a man mad! Whose dog was it?"

"He thinks it was Squire Longacre's."

"Not Bruno?"

"I believe he has only one dog."

"Well, I for one, don't think Bruno will kill sheep. I know he will not, and the squire is too neighborly and too wise a man to quarrel with, just on a suspicion like that."

"They'll quarrel, though," said young Anson. "Father has gone over there, mad, and the first word he utters will start the squire."

"It's a great pity," commented Mrs. Sloan.

"That's what I say," assented Anson.

And he walked through the kitchen and sought his own room.

He seated himself at a desk which stood in one corner, and drew toward him his pen and paper. After a few minutes' hesitation, he dashed off a few lines, read what he had written carefully, and placed the sheet in an envelope.

After directing it, he affixed a stamp, and putting the letter in an inner pocket, left the house by a rear door, and walked across the field toward the village.

He dropped the letter in the box at the post office, and returned directly home. When he reached there, he met his father.

"Anson," said the colonel sharply, "that scoundrel, Longacre, refuses to pay for the sheep he dog killed, and I'm going to bring suit against him."

"Yes, sir."

"I've noticed lately that you've been paying that girl of his a good deal of attention. I want that stopped."

"Yes, sir."

"If I hear of you being together again, I'll disinherit you. She's as bad as her father, and he's no better than a thief. His sister, Miss Dorothea, is a very clever woman, and the only really decent person about the house."

Mrs. Abigail Sloan, who usually spoke of Miss Dorothea Longacre as that "hatchet-faced old maid," told young Anson that night that she for one did not believe in these neighborhood quarrels, and she meant to tell Squire Longacre that she had no hand in the matter, and did not believe his dog killed sheep, the first time she saw him.

At about the same time Squire Longacre was standing on the porch of his house, angrily confronting his daughter, Nellie, who had just returned from the village.

"Nellie," he said, "that old rascal, Shortroad, has been here, and I expect we'll have a lawsuit. He says my dog, Bruno, killed his sheep last night, and I told him flatly that if he said my dog killed his sheep, he was a liar!"

"Oh, papa!" protested Nellie.

"Well, he's an unreasonable old wretch, and I'll give him all the law he wants. His son's no better. And look ye, girl, if I ever catch you and that young puppy together again I'll break my cane over his back and put you in a—na—na—house! Do you hear?"

"Yes, papa."

"Well, heed them!" cried the squire, warningly, and walked in to supper.

Nellie retired to her room, took a letter from her bosom, and read the contents eagerly.

"Dear fellow!" she said, and kissed the sheet which had been penned only a few hours before by young Anson. Then she went down to supper.

But little was said during the meal. The squire was cross and sulky, and Miss Dorothea was evidently in one of her worst moods.

After the evening meal she put on her bonnet and threw a light shawl over her bony shoulders.

"Where are you going, Dor?" asked her brother.

"None of your business!" was the sharp answer.

"You needn't be so snappish about it."

"Snappish!" cried the ancient maid, and she tossed her head. "I should say snappish! A man as unreasonable as you are, talk about people being snappish! Quarreled with one of the nicest men in the county."

"He's a scoundrel!" snarled the squire.

"He's a Christian gentleman!" contradicted Miss Dorothea, "and you ought to go down on your knees to him and ask his pardon."

"I'll see myself! If there's any going down on the knees, let him go down to me. He insulted me in my own house."

"I suppose you'd go down on 'em fast enough if that maneuvering old widow would ask you!"

"She's a lady," cried the squire.

"You'd better go tell her so. I'll be news to her, I reckon."

"Perhaps I shall."

"Well, you'd better. A lady! Well, heaven save the mark!"

And, with this spiteful reflection, Miss Dorothea frowned out of the room.

She directed her steps toward a grove of maple trees, which marked the boundary line between the farms of the two belligerents.

By a curious coincidence, Col. Shortroad strolled in the same direction about the same time.

The angular soldier and the thin lady met. They spoke, and finally walked toward an unfrequented part of the grove, arm in arm.

Shortly after Miss Dorothea left the house the squire stole outside the back way, and walked rapidly across a wheat field toward a certain big willow tree which stood on the edge of a pond.

By a singular coincidence, Mrs. Abigail Sloan, in the course of her serpentine ramble, reached this same pond.

Seated on a fallen log, she and the representative of county judicial honors were soon engaged in an animated conversation.

While these little scenes were being enacted, pretty Nellie Longacre, in the seclusion of her chamber, wrote the following note, which young Anson Shortroad got out of the post office the next morning:

My dear father—

I have just received your letter of the 10th inst., and am glad to hear that you are well.

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ALL RETURN HOME TO JAIL.

Convicts in Hawaii Do Not Make Any Effort to Escape from Duration.

"The most unique method for handling petty violators of the law," remarked a gentleman in Washington to a Post representative, "is in daily operation at Hilo, the capital of the island of Hawaii. I was seated on the porch of the Hilo hotel one day last winter trying to evade the mosquitoes and the sunshine, when I noticed a score of natives in striped canvas uniforms break into a dead run in the direction of the jail. The heavy iron doors swung open to admit them and they fled in one by one to become prisoners for the night. I learned later that these men were 'short-term' convicts, and that their hurry was inspired by fear that they might be 'locked out of jail.'"

"But how did they escape?" he was asked.

"Escape?" repeated the narrator. "They did not escape, they were turned loose at seven in the morning and instructed to report behind the bars at five in the afternoon. Let me explain: An alleged criminal is tried, convicted and sentence passed upon him. Should his term exceed one year he is confined in a cell on the third floor of the jail, from which escape is practically impossible. If he is a 'short-term' man, however, he is fitted up with a blue and white striped canvas suit and sent out by the day to contractors or the managers of neighboring plantations. His wages, usually 25 cents per day, are paid to the city. These fortunate convicts are both fed and lodged in jail, and in addition to their clothes are allowed a small ration of tobacco. Every morning after breakfast they may be seen embarking on their duties. They are not guarded in any manner, shape or form—in fact, it resolves itself into an extreme case of honor among thieves."

"It isn't once in a year that escape is even attempted, and the records in the county jail show but one instance where such an attempt has been successful. It is amusing to see these belated culprits running at the top of their speed for fear the doors of this novel institution will be closed against them. Those that fail to arrive later are admitted through another entrance and an additional three or four days are added to their term as punishment for their tardiness."

"How do you account for this peculiar system being still in vogue?" was asked.

"It exists merely because of its efficiency. Hilo is a coast town; the Pacific ocean guards it safely on the east, while to the westward there is nothing but the high road and the jungle. The jungle and the sea mean death and the high road capture; so you see there is a stronger force than honor which impels the return of the convict to his prison home."

MODEL PHILIPPINE ROADS.

Forty-Mile Stretch Lately Completed by American Enterprise in Batangas Province.

The solution of roadmaking problems that is going on in the province of Batangas, on the island of Luzon, under the direction of Gen. J. Franklin Bell, has been thorough and rapid during the last season. Under Spanish rule the roads were entirely neglected, and during a large part of the year following the rainy season the thoroughfares were wholly impassable. The laboring people during this period were thrown out of work, and the whole province suffered severe loss in nearly every industry, says a Washington report.

Gen. Bell set to work early last season to remedy the situation, and has now completed more than 40 miles of macadamized road in one straight stretch, giving the region a thoroughfare over which communication with the outside world may be maintained the year through. This road runs from Calambas, in Laguna province, to Batangas, in Batangas province. There is a gap of ten miles, which will be built before the year is out, giving 50 miles of good roads such as the Philippines never saw before outside of Manila.

Gen. Bell has decided to use a novel means of transportation over his new road. That is, to run regular trains of wagons hauled by traction engines. Passengers and freight are to be taken at a nominal rate, and the trains will be run on schedule time. Two or three side lines will be built in the course of next year. The engines and cars will have wide tires, and so will improve the road with use. The speed to be made will be about five miles an hour. The road fund derived from the yearly taxes is to be applied to connecting these macadamized roads with the one already built.

Gen. Bell has asked the island government to procure and sell to the natives at cost prices carts with wide tires and with wheels revolving on axles. The native cart has narrow tires and the wheels are solid on the axles, the latter revolving with the wheel in two wooden pins in the box of the vehicle. The effect of such carts on a roadbed is to cut and gouge it as if the cart were a plow. Gen. Bell asks that every old cart in the province be displaced by the new ones, which will be offered to the natives at a low price and on long time. Otherwise it is proposed to tax the narrow-tired carts heavily.

Cattle Do Damage in Hawaii.

Great damage has been done in Hawaii by cattle which graze in the mountain forests and destroy the ferns which protect the ground and enable it to retain the moisture. The consequence is an alternation of floods and droughts ruinous to the sugar crops.

A Silly Question.

Miss BaySide—How long should a couple know each other before getting married?

Mrs. Lakeside—What a silly question, child! It depends, of course, on how long they expect to stay married.—N. Y. Weekly.

Worthy of Consideration.

"In heaven's name, why is De Rigueur so attentive to that ordinary woman?"

"Hush, or she might hear you. That's the new creak he is taking home."—Town Topics.

THE BLUSHING HABIT.

It is Said to Be a Disease of the Nerves—Unhappy Cases Seen by a Doctor.

At Vienna a scientist and doctor who has made an especial study of blushing declares that it is a disease of the nerves. He declares that blushing should be treated like any other nervous disease, and that in many cases it is hereditary, says the Scotsman. One of his patients (a man) told the doctor that the fear of blushing, kept alive by the jocular taunts of his friends, had caused him such depression of spirits that he had several times been on the verge of suicide.

Another patient (a society woman) suffered seriously from nervous prostration in consequence of the teasing of her friends, who made her blush just "for the fun of it." A colleague told the doctor of one of his patients who was driven mad by blushing. Her mental condition was greatly improved by her transfer from a chamber papered in red and furnished in mahogany to a green room with oak furniture. This woman is again in society, but is subject to occasional attacks of blushing that affect her mentally at the sight of red dresses, red ribbons or anything in red. He has discovered that those addicted to blushing suffer less in summer than in the cold months, and that summer is the best time of the year in which to be treated for the annoying disease.

There are critical times, even in the warm months, for the blusher. "When a thunderstorm is in the air and in the damp of the early morning and late at night persons addicted to the habit blush most often and most violently," says the doctor, who distinguishes between two kinds of blushing—blushing caused by extraordinary sensitiveness, extreme bashfulness or modesty, and blushing because of the blusher's apprehension of the act of blushing.

A certain young woman, extremely pretty, was driven to forswear society because the unfortunate affliction of blushing extended to her beautiful neck and arms, and thus prevented her from appearing in full dress. This young woman suffers not only outwardly, but she loses all self-control when blushing. Her thoughts are "all mixed up," and she cannot speak coherently. She underwent treatment for nervousness, but the doctors could not help her.

Another singular case was that of a leading actress, who consulted the doctor. "She had ruined her complexion," said he, "by excessive use of white grease paint applied to cover her blushes, which marred her performance. She blushed whenever anything went wrong behind the scenes or on the stage, and had no control of her emotions. She is a very young woman; I never met with the trouble among actresses of mature years." The doctor says that strong men do not blush except under extraordinary circumstances; that blushing is truly a mark of femininity. Blushing men are seldom cured, for they are often sufferers from heart disease.

"I have known blushing fits, so called," said he, "to last for hours, accompanied by irregular pulse and excited heart. To blushing men and women with families I say: 'If you have a boy or girl who blushes under a reproach, or for fear of being found out, do not tell them of it, for if you do you will arouse in them apprehensions. If the child has any steadiness of mind, you will undermine it; if he has no stamina, you will completely unsettle him. There are foolish people who think their children are innocent so long as they can blush. What nonsense!'"

WHAT "IN OFFICE" MEANS.

Sometimes Nothing More Than Menial or Laborer About the Nation's Capitol.

"In office." Those two little words are more significant of broken promises, blighted faith and blasted hopes than any other two in the language. At the same time they convey a pride of possession that is the breath of life to some people, says the Washington Post. A colored maid recently employed by the wife of a southern senator confided to Mrs. Senator that her "steady company" was "in office," and the pride with which she made the announcement indicated her belief that he was in a class not far removed from the senator. Inquiry developed the fact that the maid's "steady" was a laborer in one of the departments. But here is the other picture: An elevator conductor at the capitol was one of the most influential politicians in his section of a western state. He was an important factor in the community in which he lived. He had a good business and money in bank. The desire of his life was to be "in office." He came to Washington with the senator whose election he had championed, expecting to obtain a lucrative position at once. He was disappointed. Too proud to return to his home town without having tasted the fruits of political office, he waited many weary months. Finally his senator got the position of elevator conductor for him. Now, this man whose influence was sought by a senator and who cut an important figure in his own state, is serving at the call of anybody at the capitol capable of pressing a push button. A few days ago he escorted a party of his old friends and neighbors to the principal points of interest about the city. They wanted to see the president, and, putting on a bold front, he took them to the white house and made the effort. Unfortunately, the president was engaged with some members of the cabinet or he might have received the party. As it was, the rebuff added only a trifle to the burden of disappointment already borne by the man "in office."

Loquacious.

The family was discussing the high prices of provisions generally, when the small boy butted into the conversation.

"I am home, too," he remarked. "Ma keeps it on the top shelf now."

And then it suddenly dawned on his youthful perceptions that he had injured his case by talking too much.—Batavia News.

LESSON IN AMERICAN HISTORY IN PUZZLE



THE INAUGURATION OF WASHINGTON AT NEW YORK. Find Gov. Clinton.

On the first Wednesday of January, 1789, occurred the first presidential election in the United States, and when the electoral votes were counted in the following April George Washington received all of them for president. John Adams being elected vice president. Washington was notified of his election at Mount Vernon on April 14, and departed for New York to be inaugurated. The inauguration occurred on April 30, and Washington took the oath of office on the balcony of the old city hall, the oath being administered by Chancellor Livingston, of New York, in the presence of the members of both houses of congress, Gov. Clinton and other state officials of New York, and a vast concourse of people. Immediately following the ceremony Washington retired to the senate chamber and delivered his inaugural address.

PITH AND POINT.

To some people a small daily income is better than a large fortune.—Chicago Daily News.

The man who is clever in scheming to get invitations in his youth, will find his cleverness valuable in scheming to get out of accepting them in his old age.—Athenian Globe.

First and Last.—Casper—"Among the ancient doctors bleeding the patient was the first operation in treating a case." Charlie—"And now it's the last."—Harvard Lampoon.

Living Versus Rooming.—Stranger—"How many people live in this city?" Citizen—"About 200,000."

"So? I had thought you had a population of at least 300,000." "Oh, so we have. But only two-thirds of them live. The rest room and board."—Baltimore American.

Mother—"Have you any waterproof boots for a boy?" Salesman—"We have waterproof boots, ma'am; but they are not for boys." Mother—"Why don't you have some for boys?" Salesman—"When somebody has invented a boot that has no opening for the foot to get into it, we may hope for boys' waterproof boots, not before."—Boston Transcript.

Still Useful.—"Yes, poor old sport, when he had money he had a good time, but he went broke." "Then starved?" "I should say not. He secured a splendid position in a swell boarding house."

"What doing?" "Just has to sit around the boarding house parlor posing as the star boarder, meanwhile complaining loudly before prospective boarders about the bad case of gout contracted there."—Baltimore Herald.

DEAF MUTES WIN SUCCESS.

Men Lacking Two of the More Important Faculties Who Have Won Fame and Fortune.

Without speech and hearing it would seem impossible for a man or woman to achieve any positive success in the world. That it is possible for a certain amount of enjoyment to be brought into the life of a person thus afflicted is well known. It is generally understood that such a person can overcome these natural obstacles and live a life of reasonable contentment.

But that men thus handicapped have been able to enter the struggle for renown and riches and win without these all-important powers is not generally realized. The records of various institutions for the deaf and dumb throughout the country reveal the fact many persons so afflicted are forging ahead and becoming prominent in different walks of life, says the Chicago Tribune.

They are finding success in many occupations and professions—even in the law. They have their churches, their fraternities, and their old people's homes, all maintained by their own efforts. The record of the deaf and dumb in this country has been duplicated in Europe.

The arts have appealed naturally to the deaf and dumb as offering opportunities for success, and many of the men who have won renown in spite of their handicaps have devoted themselves either to sculpture or painting.